

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.
ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—CINDERELLA, OR THE GLASS SLIPPER.
NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—LEAH, THE FORSAKEN.
WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway.—MARRIED LIFE.
WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—RICHARD III.
LAURA KERNES THEATRE, Broadway.—FAIR ONE WITH THE GOLDEN LOCKS—BETSY BARR.
NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—EDGEMOUTH BESS.
BOVEY THEATRE, Bowery.—LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD—SCHOOL MASTER—LOVEY TICKET—MARY PRICE.
GERMAN OPERA HOUSE, 455 Broadway.—JOSEPH IN EGYPT.
BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—MINNIE WARREN, COM. NETT, LIVING HISTORY, &c., at all hours.—COLLEEN BAWN—Afternoon and Evening.
BRYANT'S MINSTREL, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—KING OF THE COCKADE.
WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL, 314 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—KING OF THE COCKADE.
BROADWAY MENAGERIE, Broadway.—LIVING WILD ANIMALS—TAMING AND TRAINING—COMIC MUSIC, &c.
AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 444 Broadway.—BALLET.
PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 363 Broadway.—Open daily from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.
HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.—KING OF THE COCKADE.
New York, Friday, February 20, 1863.

THE SITUATION.

No movement has been made in General Hooker's army within the past few days. Our correspondence from there to-day, however, is very interesting. The men are in good spirits and in far better condition than the roads. The enemy are said to be considerably reduced in numbers, and we are told that if the army could only be shut off from communication with Washington for one month we could wipe out the rebel force at Fredericksburg with little effort; but nothing can be done with the army while it is so near the capital by rail and steamer. We are told further that "our generals are unfortunate in being near enough to the Secretary of War to have all their orders countermanded and their best plans thwarted."

Our news from the South to-day is important and interesting.

General Beauregard, as military commander of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, has issued a proclamation declaring it to be his solemn duty to announce to the citizens and authorities of Charleston and Savannah that an attack by the land and naval forces of the United States is about to be made upon either or both cities, and warning those who are not able to take up arms for their defence to retire to some place of safety. He urges, however, upon every one who can join in the struggle at "this hour of trial" to do so without regard to the kind of weapons they may have in their possession. Pikes and scythes, he says, will do for the destruction of their enemies, and spades and shovels for the protection of their families, altars and the graves of their fathers. General Beauregard is evidently alarmed at the anaconda grip which is closing round him.

It is earnestly pressed by the Southern journals upon the consideration of the planters that vital necessity demands the growing of cereals for the next crop of the South instead of cotton or sugar. The planters are urged to remember that the South is engaged in a war, the end of which cannot be foreseen; that the ports are closed against the receipt of supplies from abroad, and the idea of their being opened by foreign intervention is exploded; that the supplies from the great West are effectually cut off, and that every planter should devote himself to raising hogs, rice, potatoes, sheep and all things that sustain life, forgetting "that such a thing as cotton or sugar was ever raised for any other purpose but that of domestic use."

The Mississippi has been rising rapidly for the past two weeks, and it is stated by the Port Hudson News that if it continues another week it will be out of its banks. The water is already running through the crevasse in West Baton Rouge, and "in a day or so it will be through the Lobdell crevasse."

The pirate Alabama has added another chapter to her predatory history. She captured and burned the brig Chasteline, of Boston, from Guadalupe for Clefuegos, on the 27th ultimo, off Altavira Rock. The crew were landed at St. Domingo City. Captain Semmes took out all the nautical instruments and eight hundred dollars in gold. The bark Golden Rule, a vessel of two hundred and fifty-four tons burthen, belonging to the Panama Railroad Company, was also captured by her and burned January 26, about fifty miles south of St. Domingo. The Golden Rule was on her way to Aspinwall with a valuable cargo, a considerable portion of which was on Spanish, French and English account. The schooner Hancock, from Boston for Aux Cayes, was also captured by a privateer (probably the Retribution, or it may have been the Alabama,) on the 31st ult., off Ansed Hainanet, Hayti.

General Butler visited Baltimore yesterday, and got a most enthusiastic reception at the hall of the Maryland Institute in the evening. He made a patriotic speech, which was warmly received by the audience. The pleasure of General Butler's ovation, however, was marred by a lamentable accident, which occurred by the firing of a gun at Fort Marshall during the salute, by which Commander Maxwell Woodhull, of the navy, was killed, his body being blown over the ramparts to a distance of thirty feet. The dinner to Gen. Butler, which was to have come off at the Eutaw House last night was postponed out of respect to the deceased officer.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, the credentials of Mr. Morgan, the new Senator from New York, were presented. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, exhibiting the debit and credit account of the contrabands of the Sea Islands cotton district, was received. It shows a balance of more than half a million dollars in favor of the government. The bill organizing the signal corps during the rebellion was passed. Bills to promote the efficiency of the navy, and to amend the act equalizing the grade of naval officers, were reported back by the Naval Committee. A bill

providing for the collection and sale of abandoned, and for the prevention of fraud in insurrectionary districts, was introduced. The bill providing for the discharge of State prisoners, and authorizing the President to suspend the writ of habeas corpus, was taken up. A motion to strike out the section of the bill authorizing a suspension of the writ of habeas corpus was rejected—yeas 13, nays 27. Messrs. Trumbull and Carlile offered substitutes for the bill, but no further action was taken on the subject. The section of the Legislative Appropriation bill providing that no member from beyond the Rocky Mountains shall receive more than \$3,000 for mileage, and no other members, except those from distant Territories, shall receive more than \$1,000, was debated at considerable length, and the bill was finally referred to a new conference committee of the two houses. The Naval Appropriation bill was taken up and several important amendments agreed to. The Senate then went into executive session and afterwards adjourned.

In the House of Representatives the bill indemnifying the President and other persons for acts done under the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, was referred to a conference committee. The Senate joint resolution authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to adjust the equitable claims of contractors for naval supplies and regulating contracts with the Navy Department, was adopted. It refers to supplies furnished for more than fifty per centum above the quantities specified in their contracts, and without default therein. The House passed the Senate's joint resolution expelling ex-Senator Badger from the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, for his giving aid and comfort to the enemy, and appointing Professor Louis Agassiz to fill his place. The Senate bills for the removal of the Winnebago Indians and the sale of their lands, and providing for an Assistant Collector of the Customs for New York to reside in Jersey City, were also passed. At the evening session the National Currency bill was taken up, and Messrs. Spaulding and Panton spoke in favor of its passage.

THE LEGISLATURE.

In the State Senate yesterday the following bills, which had previously received the concurrence of the Assembly, were passed:—The General Bounty bill, the bill to legalize the acts of boards of supervisors for raising volunteers' bounties, the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad bill and some bills for special purposes. A bill to encourage reenlistments in the army was reported. It proposes a bounty of fifty dollars each for volunteers re-enlisting for one year, and seventy-five dollars for those re-enlisting for three years or more. Resolutions were adopted requesting the members of Congress from this State to give their aid in the carrying out of the soldiers' allotment system, and complementing the Allotment Commissioners. The bill to enforce the responsibility of bank stockholders was ordered to a third reading. The Senate adjourned till Wednesday evening, the 25th inst.

In the Assembly the annual report from the Auditor of the trade, tolls and tonnage of the canal was presented. The Senate resolutions in reference to the allotment system and the Allotment Commissioners were unanimously adopted. Some few bills of no general interest were passed. Among the bills ordered to a third reading were those confirming the New York Common Council ordinances to provide bounties for volunteers and relief for their families; to authorize the making of sidewalks and planting of shade trees along the highways of the State, and relative to sales of land by the United States Loan Commissioners. The Annual Appropriation bill was considered in Committee of the Whole. Among a number of bills noticed and introduced was one to make of Castle Garden a fort for the defence of New York harbor. The Assembly also adjourned over to the 25th inst.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The first anniversary meeting of the "National Freedmen's Association" was held last night at the Cooper Institute, there being rather a slim attendance. Speeches were made by the chairman, Dr. Tyng, Revs. Henry Ward Beecher and J. Newman, in advocacy of contributing to the religious, industrial and educational instruction of the blacks. A small collection was made among the audience for this purpose.

The Board of Aldermen met yesterday, and transacted general business. Nothing of importance was brought before it. The Board stands adjourned until Thursday next.

A regular meeting of the Board of Councilmen was held last evening. After transacting a large amount of routine business, they took up the resolutions adopted in the Board of Aldermen condemning the verdict of the court martial by which Major General Fitz John Porter was dismissed the service of the United States, and tendering their sympathy and the hospitalities of the city to that officer. After a brief speech by Councilman Gross in favor of their adoption, the resolutions were unanimously adopted. A resolution of concurrence was adopted donating the sum of \$5,000 for the celebration of Washington's birthday. A resolution was adopted authorizing the Comptroller to issue \$250,000 of the Central Park Improvement Fund stock. The ordinance to raise \$500,000 for the relief of the families of volunteers was received from the Aldermen and concurred in. The ordinance to provide for the defence of the harbor and city of New York, and appropriating \$1,000,000 for the purpose, was concurred in. The Board adjourned until Thursday evening next, at four o'clock.

The Aldermen Committee on the Street Commissioning recently held a private informal meeting yesterday. None of their proceedings were made known.

The Fort Gansevoort case was yesterday again adjourned, in consequence of the absence of Mr. James T. Brady, who was engaged in another court.

The following facts form a somewhat singular coincidence:—In the fall of 1852 Horatio Seymour, democrat, was elected Governor of this State, and in the following spring Thomas H. Seymour, democrat, was chosen Governor of Connecticut. Last fall Horatio Seymour, after a lapse of ten years, was elected a second time Governor of New York, and Thomas H. Seymour again follows as the democratic candidate for the Executive chair of Connecticut. Nothing remains to make the coincidence perfect but for the conservative men of the latter State to elect their candidate.

A memorial from the Minnesota Legislature is to be presented to the State of Wisconsin, asking the cession of Douglas county from the latter State to the former, in order to give Minnesota a port on Lake Superior.

Since the establishment of Camp Douglas six hundred and forty bodies of rebel soldiers have been buried in Potters Field at Chicago.

The Emperor Napoleon on the 23d ultimo received a private letter from the President of the republic of Hayti.

The stock market was dull yesterday, and prices were lower, the chief fall being in Pacific Mail, which declined eight per cent, partly on the talk of war with France. Governments declined 1/2 per cent, and the whole list approached. Owing to the weather, the attendance of the outside operators was smaller than usual. Gold rose to 153 1/2, declined to 153, and closed at 152 1/2. Bid. Exchange closed freely at 150, and closed at bid. Money was abundant at 6 1/2 per cent.

There was more activity in general business yesterday. Flour sold freely at a further rise of 10c, a 15c; wheat and corn 1c, 2c; and the demand for provisions continued brisk at advancing prices. Groceries were in better request, as likewise were tallow, whiskey, clover seed, fish, hops and metals, with an upward tendency in rates. There were very trifling sales of cotton, rice and naval stores reported. There was more doing in the freight line, and shipowners had any existing advances

The Approaching Elections in New Hampshire and Connecticut.

On the 10th of March next the State of New Hampshire, and on the first Monday in April the State of Connecticut, will be called upon to record their verdict upon the conduct of the war by the present administration. These two States never held elections in which more important issues were involved. During the days of the old federal party, and still later under the old whig party, New Hampshire and Connecticut were among the most liberal of the New England States; and, although recently they have gone off after strange gods, we hope they are not yet so firmly wedded to the ebony idol of abolitionism as to be indifferent to the converting influences of the present political revival. The enthusiasm caused by the visit of General McClellan to New England seems like a gleam of light in the East, announcing, we trust, the dawn of a new and brighter day. Whether this be so or not the coming elections must decide. We desire, therefore, that the people shall go to the polls after a careful and earnest consideration of the whole subject; that the elections shall be fairly and impartially conducted, and that the results may be neither doubtful nor unprofitable.

When our civil war began, with the rebel attack upon Fort Sumter, the people rallied unanimously in support of the government, and offered every possible assistance to the present administration. There were no parties at that time. Patriotism conquered partisan feeling, and President Lincoln found his most willing and able allies among his political opponents. Gradually, however, the war for the Union began to be transformed into a war for the negro. Step by step, at first cautiously, and then more and more boldly, the administration advanced upon this dangerous, downward course. The instincts of the people revolted at this change in the object of the war. At first they remonstrated, then protested, and then began to regard the progress of the conflict with an apathy amounting almost to indifference and disgust. The administration felt, as it could not avoid feeling, this loss of public confidence and support, but, instead of conciliating it, endeavored to coerce the people. The issue of the emancipation proclamation and the removal of General McClellan were the consummation of the abolition policy. Since then we have done nothing, gained nothing, accomplished nothing, which can at all counterbalance our numerous irritating, though indecisive, losses by land and by sea, and now the radical faction of the party in power is pusillanimously clamoring for "the best attainable peace." Such is, in brief, the history of the conduct of the war by the present administration. The details of the sad and shameful story of radical fanaticism, malignity and disasters are not unknown to the people of New Hampshire and Connecticut. One after another the great Central States, from the Bay of New York to the Rocky Mountains, have emphatically condemned the incompetence, incapacity and mismanagement of the War, Navy and Treasury departments. Secretary Seward's admirable administration of the Department of State has alone been endorsed by the people. Ohio has repudiated Secretary Chase, and Pennsylvania has disavowed Secretary Stanton. Will Connecticut applaud and sustain Secretary Welles? Are the people of the New England States less intelligent and conservative than those of the great Central States? Is the negro to be preferred to the Union? New Hampshire and Connecticut will answer these questions at the approaching elections.

It would be doing great injustice to the common sense of President Lincoln not to believe that he knows his Cabinet to be incompetent and his administration a failure. We are certain that he will proceed to reconstitute his Cabinet and redeem his failures if the people will but afford him another opportunity. He has consented thus far to the radical abolition policy under most severe pressure from the radicals in and out of Congress. He was threatened that unless he yielded to the radicals' demands they would deprive the government of its necessary supplies. Having a majority in the Congress which is now, fortunately, near its close, the radicals could have put this threat into execution. In our opinion the President should have defied them and appealed to the country for support. In his opinion, however, it was better to submit to circumstances and allow time to repair all evils. When this Congress adjourns, on the 4th of March next, the President will be liberated from his bondage to the abolitionists. Already, as coming events cast their shadows before, we hear daily rumors that Cabinet changes are contemplated, and that McClellan is to be recalled. We should not be surprised if these conservative measures followed closely upon the adjournment of the present Congress. If so, the elections in New Hampshire and Connecticut will set the seal of public approbation upon this reformation of the administration. If not, then the elections in New Hampshire and Connecticut may inaugurate the reformation, as the President may wait, perhaps, in order to be sure from the result of these elections that there is no change in the sentiments of the people, as expressed in October and November last. In either event how tremendously important the spring elections will be. They may enable the President to alter his policy in time to save the Union, but not in time to save the republican party, or they may delude him into a still further continuance in a course fatal to himself and the country. Let the people of New Hampshire and Connecticut stand by the Union and the constitution. Let them be deceived neither by the radical negro-worshipping disunionists on the one hand nor by the radical revolutionary democrats on the other. Let them vote down both the "peace at any price" democrats and the "peace on the best attainable terms" republicans. Let them be true to the great principles of constitutional conservatism, and show that they are intelligent enough to appreciate this crisis of our affairs and wise enough to adopt the only means left us to save the Union. Their interests are identical with those of the Central States, and the result of their elections should be precisely the same. Rebuke the radical members of the Cabinet and sustain the President and Secretary Seward, and all will yet be well.

A BUTRANT FOR PRESIDENT LINCOLN.—The "grapevine editor," so styling himself, of the Chattanooga Rebel newspaper, says that, according to his last despatch from the front, Bragg was retreating one way and Rosecrans the other, and that "great fears are entertained that Rosecrans will reach Nashville before we reach Chattanooga."

The Resources of France Unequal to a War with this Country.

Should Napoleon III. recognize the Davis government, and thus bring about a war between France and the United States, he will speedily find how inadequate are his resources for a successful termination of such a conflict. Republican France for years kept all Europe at bay, although her enemies had every facility of access to her territory, and could use to the fullest extent her resources. At this date republican America can not only subdue her rebellious subjects, but can also drive her shores any invading force which France might send over the three thousand miles of ocean which separates the two countries. Any aggression of foreign Powers would surely put an end to all political or party differences among the people of the North, and the whole strength and energy of our active population would be turned against our enemies. The world would then be able to judge how truly great is the power of the North, while Napoleon would be taught a lesson which would forever deter any further interference with this people. But not alone has Napoleon to dread our power. He must know that a use of the entire resources of France is denied him. In a war with us he will not have the support of his people. The great parties which divide France into sections will all be averse to a war between her and the United States.

The Orleans party will, to serve their own ends, oppose a war with us by all means in their power. The republican party in France will act likewise, from a desire to put down any inimical proceedings on the part of France towards republics, while the people at large will groan over their increased taxation and lament the vast expenditure which a war between France and this country would render imperative. Thus Napoleon would find obstacles on all sides of him in his own empire, while he would feel assured that the sympathies of the other great Powers of Europe were not in his favor. England, who grants an asylum to the Orleans princes, does so with a cordiality which leaves no room for doubt as to whom her sympathies are given. Napoleon is well aware that Palmerston would delight at seeing France involved in a war with us, as, which ever got worsted in the conflict, Palmerston would still rejoice. He hates both, but would not doubt rather see Napoleon suffer, as he is an enemy more to be dreaded.

To crown the difficulties which surround the French Emperor is that most crushing of all obstacles—a want of money. It is exceedingly doubtful whether Napoleon could raise a loan for a war with this country; and, unless he could succeed in so doing, to undertake that war were madness. The experiment succeeded in 1859, when he could appeal to the nobler sentiments of the French people, in favor of the Italians, and to their worse passions, in enmity to the Austrians; but to ask for money for the purpose of entering into a war with the United States would, we feel sure, meet with no response in the minds or hearts of the people of France, and thus Napoleon would soon find himself ruined by a contest with us. Blinded by his ambition, or driven on by the necessities of his position, he may undertake this war; but, as surely as he does, he will find it end in his ruin and the consequent destruction of his hopes for his dynasty.

The people of France, as well as the army, are decidedly averse to the Mexican expedition, which has proved, up to the present time, so great a failure; and, as they are sensible enough to understand how much more important and difficult would be a war with us, they would still more deprecate such a misfortune for France. The Emperor Napoleon must understand all this, unless he is pushed on by some will stronger than his own. He must comprehend, unless blinded by fate, that any war with us can in the end but prove disastrous to him. True, he might achieve at first partial success; but when he had fully routed the people of the North to the necessity of defeating him and his schemes, they would as surely accomplish this as that they exist. The resources of this country are incalculable; the will of the people can render them overwhelming; and just such an occurrence as a war with France would cause the people to have that will. Let Napoleon beware how he insults the majesty of this government. Let him pause ere he bring upon France the enmity of this nation. To make war with him we can raise a million of men. To sweep his fleets from the sea we can build iron-clads by hundreds. To repel foreign invasion and insult we can unite and act with but one will, one determination; and we too to that dynasty which finds itself opposed by the united people of the North when they shall have risen in their might.

GENERAL H. S. FOOTE'S PEACE PROPOSITION IN THE REBEL CONGRESS.—The irrepressible General Foote has introduced another peace proposition in the rebel Congress, in the form of a series of resolutions, which have been referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

His resolutions declare that the Confederate States will never consent to any plan for reconstructing the Federal Union; that the Confederate States cannot agree to negotiate at all in regard to a suspension of hostilities, except upon the basis of unconditional recognition of their independence; that after separation the Confederate States would consent to a commercial treaty with all the States of the Union, except New England; that the Confederate States would consent to a league, offensive and defensive, with the several States which have recently manifested a change of public sentiment, from their stipulating for disunion at once from the further prosecution of the war; and renouncing all political connection with New England; and that the Confederate States will guarantee the peaceful and uninterrupted navigation of the Mississippi; and its tributaries to the States bordering thereon which shall have declared their intention to withdraw from the prosecution of the war.

Now this famous General Foote, be it remembered, is regarded in Richmond as a Southern peace man, in which character his proposition that the loyal States shall not only recognize the Davis confederacy, but shall divide themselves into three or four separate confederacies, is exceedingly cool. Let General Foote be enrolled on the great peace committee of Louis Napoleon, Vallandigham, Greeley, Colorado Jewett & Co. At all events, as General Foote has the reputation of a blatherskite, and Vallandigham is set down as a copperhead, Greeley as a cabbage head and Colorado Jewett as a blockhead, they should all go together.

THE WHOLE QUESTION IN A NUTSHELL.—The Tribune of yesterday says of the conservative democrats:—"They are not disunionists—they do not desire the permanent division of our country—but they do hope and expect to achieve its reconstruction." This is precisely the difference between the conservatives and the abolition radicals. The radicals are "disunionists"—they do "desire the permanent division of our country"—and they do not "hope and expect to achieve its reconstruction." Let the people remember this distinction.

They "Want to See What the Herald Says About the War."

Our special correspondent in New Orleans, in his account of the late rebel descent upon Galveston, resulting in the capture of the Harriet Lane and the recapture of the town, reports that—

Captain Wilson, of the Osawaco, says that when the rebel Governor Imboden, of Texas, came on board his vessel during the fight, the first thing he inquired for was the New York Herald. "I want," he said, "to see what the Herald says about the war."

We next find in the New Haven Journal and Courier an extract of a letter from the "Camp of the Twenty-seventh Connecticut Volunteers, near Falmouth, Va.," dated February 12, relating the following suggestive incident:—

The rebels recently rigged up a plank, with a sail and rudder attached, and on top placed a drawer evidently taken from an old secretary, in which they put two tin snappers and a tin of tobacco, with a written request for a New York Herald, and stating that "they would come over and have a little chat," if it would please their captives. But this kind of intercourse is strictly forbidden on our part.

The rebels on the Rappahannock, like the rebel Governor of Texas, doubtless wanted to "see what the Herald says about the war." They know that the Herald represents the predominant conservative Union sentiment of the loyal States; that it is not the tool of any faction or political party; that it supports the cause of the Union against disunion upon any terms; that it is opposed to all disturbing Northern cliques and factions, and seeks a harmonious, earnest and vigorous prosecution of the war for the suppression of the rebellion; and that accordingly what the Herald says about the war is more to be relied upon than the views of any other Northern journal in regard to the actual condition of the controlling public opinion of the loyal States.

This must be so; for otherwise there would be no demand among the rebels for the Herald. If they thought that there was any reliance to be placed in the views and opinions of Northern journals engaged in the unholy work of giving "aid and comfort" to the rebellion, they would ask for the New York Tribune, in order to be informed of the progress and prospects of its programme of French mediation and the "best peace we can obtain" about the 1st of May; or two Richmond papers and a half plug of tobacco would be offered in exchange for a copy of the New York Journal of Commerce, the World or the Express, in order to see what progress the Northern disunion democratic peace faction are making in behalf of a Southern confederacy. But the rebels have no faith in the organs of the abolition peace faction or the democratic peace faction, as the exponents of the genuine public sentiment of the loyal States. Accordingly, from Virginia to Texas, when the "butterbats" ask for any particular Northern paper, it is the Herald they name, because they "want to see what it says about the war;" they want facts, they want reliable intelligence in reference to the controlling Union sentiment of the country, upon which the success of this war for the Union depends. They want to know not what an abolition disunion organ, or what a peace democratic disunion organ says, but they want the views of a journal representing the great mass of the people of the North and their great cause; in short, they want the Herald, just as our hundred thousand subscribers hereabouts want it, "to see what it says about the war."

OUR CONTEMPORARIES FOLLOWING IN OUR WAKE.—The Herald cautioned the American people months ago against the encroachments of Louis Napoleon on this continent, and denounced him as the friend of the Davis government. We have kept up our warnings upon the subject and have made reiterated calls upon our administration to prepare against the results of an alliance between France and the South. Our articles upon this subject called down upon us contradictions and denunciations from our contemporaries, who are always behind-hand in their information. We were charged by them with being secessionists, with giving aid and comfort to the enemy, and like balderdash, which did not deter us from making our appeals to the government to prepare against the schemes of Napoleon. One of our neighbors said, not a month since, it was "enabled from good sources to contradict point blank the rumors which interested parties have been extremely diligent of late in putting in circulation. The very latest communications from the French government, as made by it to Mr. Dayton, and by him reported to the Secretary of State, are of the most friendly character; and details are given on the subject which give assurances of the truth of this assertion." Another journal, about the same date, referring to the New Year discourse made by Napoleon, which contained assurances of his desire to be at peace with all the world, remarked:—"We are obliged to his Majesty for the opinion he thus enables us to administer to those in this country who are gifted with weak nerves." These same papers are now crying out against France and urging upon our administration the immediate necessity of preparing for war. This is following our example—a good one. We would suggest to the journals above referred to that if they wish to be right always they have but to continue what they are now doing—that is, following in the wake of the Herald.

CONTRABAND NEWS.—A letter from a Connecticut regiment stationed at Falmouth, Virginia, to a New Haven paper, among other things states that "the next day after the Ninth army corps had left the rebels hailed our pickets and asked, 'Where is your Ninth Army corps gone to?'" The correspondent adds that "the rebels are awestruck." It thus appears that the rebels knew that the Ninth army corps had moved off the very day after it was really reported to have changed its position. The fact of its removal was not known to the Northern people. It was suppressed in the Northern papers as contraband news, and the first intimation of the fact came North from Southern sources. This is very curious, to say the least of it, and shows that the rebels have by far too reliable means of obtaining information from within our lines. This incident reminds us of the fact that when we published a full return of the strength and status of the rebel army, the Confederate government at Richmond instantly arrested three or four of their clerks, on the supposition that they had given us the information, whereas we had compiled the whole thing from their own papers.

THE HIGH PREMIUM ON PENNIES.—The dealers and commercial people generally who now pay eighteen per cent for pennies are perhaps not aware that the United States Mint at Philadelphia will exchange any quantity of cents at par for government currency. There is thus surely no reason why so exorbitant a premium should be paid for pennies. We repeat that

the United States Mint in Philadelphia will pay them out for currency at par. This fact, when generally known, will no doubt cause a reduction of the premium now obtained.

STORM SIGNALS ON THE COAST.—The theory of storms has of late years attracted the attention of many persons throughout the civilized world, and constant experiments have been made by those who have given the matter special study to test the practicability of forecasting the approach of heavy gales in time to give warning at distant points along a coast, thereby preventing an immense amount of a maritime disasters. The force and direction of gales of wind have become a study of no small importance, and if any feasible plan can be adopted for determining their approach, in order that time may be given to guard against their effects, it will be one of the greatest blessings that can be conferred upon mankind. No people in the world have been greater sufferers from this cause than those of the United States, and it is hoped that before many years have passed some system will be had that will serve in a great measure to lessen the number of losses at sea that we are daily called upon to chronicle.

In another column we give an interesting sketch, accompanied with illustrations, of the plan of Admiral Fitzroy, of the English navy, for signaling to those points not reached by the magnetic telegraph the approach of storms. Admiral Fitzroy has given this matter much attention, and he is satisfied of his ability, from a long series of experiments and observations of different characters, to determine the approach of a gale in time to give the necessary warning to mariners on all points of the English and Irish coast. It was some time before he was able to obtain the assistance of the English government in carrying out his plans, he having for over two years made all the experiments at his own expense; but now the necessary orders have been issued causing his signals to be used at all the stations of the coast guard and other points of the coast. He foretold with great accuracy the approach of the heavy gale of last January, which lasted from the 17th to the 19th of the month, and was no doubt thereby by the means of saving much life and valuable property.

If the plan of Admiral Fitzroy turns out to be all that he claims it is, its adoption in this country for our extended line of seacoast will become an immediate necessity. Already have we almost instantaneous communication by means of the magnetic telegraph between Fortress Monroe and St. Johns, Newfoundland, and if a submarine cable were laid from the former point to Key West, and from thence to the mouth of the Mississippi and the Rio Grande, the approach or existence of gales of wind would be known every hour, and their direction indicated in time to anticipate their fury. The Herald has for many years constantly advocated the adoption of a similar system, which could be sustained by the underwriters and merchants of the country; and if the plan had been adopted then the probabilities are that millions of property would have been saved that is now at the bottom of the ocean, to say nothing of the thousands of lives. It is very evident that the telegraph is to be the principal medium in the carrying out of Admiral Fitzroy's project, aided by his signals. Consequently we should be ready for its adoption by having our submarine lines completed at the earliest moment.

WHO VOTED AGAINST MCCLELLAN?—Several anxious republicans have written to us asking who were the republican Senators who voted down the complimentary resolutions to General McClellan in our State Legislature a few days ago. Although we do not belong to that "Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge" which meets at Delmonico's, we still manage to diffuse considerable useful knowledge daily; and here is the record called for:—

Mr. CONNOLLY called up the resolutions, almost unanimously passed by the Assembly, eulogizing General McClellan and inviting him to visit the Capitol.

Mr. ANGELL moved to lay the resolutions on the table.

Mr. CONNOLLY called for the yeas and nays on the motion of Mr. Angel.

The yeas and nays were ordered, and the resolutions laid on the table by the following vote:—

YEAS.—Messrs. Angel, Bell, Cook, Farrar, Folger, Hutchinson, Little, Montgomery, Ramsey, Richards, Sanford, Smith, Tobey and Young—all republicans.

NAYS.—Messrs. W. Clark, Connolly, Ganson, Hardin, Low, Munroe, Murphy, Pruyn and Robertson. Mr. Freer paired off with Mr. Truman.

Nine Senators were absent.

Let Messrs. Angel, Bell, Cook, Farrar, Folger, Hutchinson, Little, Montgomery, Ramsey, Richards, Sanford, Smith, Tobey and Young be remembered when the day of reckoning comes and all radicals shall be voted down.

THE REBEL CONSCRIPTION.—EVIDENCES OF FAILING STRENGTH.—The extraordinary measures resorted to by the Confederate government to fill up the depleted ranks of its army tell a tale of failing resources in that respect more conclusive than anything else we have yet seen. Officers dropped from the service for military offences are being re-drafted as common soldiers, and in Alabama, Georgia and the southeastern portion of North Carolina proclamations have been issued by the rebel Governors offering a free pardon to deserters if they will come in and join their regiments. Hitherto the punishment for desertions amongst the rebels has been very severe. This extreme severity has not been found to work well, and now the Confederate authorities are willing to condone the offence in order to get back the men whose escape is so rapidly thinning their ranks. We do not see how these new measures are going to help them. If these deserters braved death in the first instance to escape from their clutches, it is not likely that they will again voluntarily place themselves within their grasp.

THE LOUISVILLE PEACE CONVENTION RESCINDING.—The Kentucky House of Representatives on the 11th inst. rescinded its resolution, passed the day before, inviting peace commissioners from other State Legislatures to meet commissioners to be appointed by Kentucky in a peace convention at Louisville, while in the Illinois Legislature the House resolutions to the same effect, pushed through that branch by a disunion peace democratic majority, were left untouched upon the table of the Senate at the final adjournment of the session. The disunion peace democrats of said Legislature had doubtless read and duly considered the emphatic Union resolutions passed by the brave Illinois soldiers in the army of General Rosecrans. Let President Lincoln take care of the abolition disorganizers, and the people and the Union volunteers will attend to the democratic copperheads.